graduate student travel support + thesis research project

#12

December 30, 1992
Department of Anthropology
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003
413-545-2221

Dr. H. McAllisten, Research Director
Council for Tobacco Research, USA
900 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Dr. McAllisten,

I am writing in pursuit of funding for my doctoral research. Below is a brief description of my project, my funding needs, and a curriculum vita. I trust the Council for Tobacco Research will be interested in supporting my research.

My doctoral research is predicated on issues revolving around tobacco use in the Middle East. As an archaeologist, I am intrigued by the global diffusion of tobacco in the aftermath of Columbus' voyages to the Americas. In the Middle East, archaeologists often encounter the material correlates of tobacco use - clay tobacco pipes. These distinctive artifacts have only began to be examined in the Middle East, with no on-going research in the area known as the Levant (Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria). My dissertation centers on changes in material culture over the last half millennium; one of the most striking changes is the introduction of clay tobacco pipes for the use of tobacco.

The little historical research that has gone into tobacco in this region comes from archival sources. Historians point to the 1633 prohibition against tobacco (as well as opium and coffeehouses) as a benchmark. My archaeological research can transform that documentary information. In the archaeological

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record is the evidence of what people did rather than just what was written.

My request is for funding to examine collections of clay tobacco pipes and associated artifacts in Israel, Cyprus, and Turkey. Those countries are chosen for specific reasons. In Israel, I have extensive archaeological experience and the opportunity to examine the collections from numerous excavations with the permission of the Israeli Antiquity Authority and the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem (the Albright Institution). With chronological control over the medieval and post-medieval materials, I should be able to chronologically fix the introduction and spread of tobacco in that place. There is sufficient variation in clay tobacco pipes to warrant study of the decisions the peoples of the region made in regards to smoking as well as changes over time. Cyprus will be significant as a cross-reference. Comparisons and contrasts to the finds in Israel will render a more robust argument for the chronology. The interaction between consuming tobacco as a commodity and the political changes will forward with the comparison between Palestine and Cyprus (both Turkish and British rule over Cyprus preceded that of Palestine by a century). Lastly, Turkey is necessary for its museum collections of Ottoman period material culture and for consulting with experts examining the Ottoman archives.

My needs are few but financing is essential. I have two significant costs: travel to the Middle East and the expense of

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photographing and drawing clay tobacco pipes by the Antiquity Authority. The travel cost consists of a flight to Israel, ferries to Cyprus and Turkey and back a flight back to the USA. That will be $1300.00. My expenses in Israel are funded by the American Schools of Oriental Research and I am confident that requests for room and board in Cyprus and Turkey will also be picked up by American Research Institutions in those countries. I must record some of the artifacts which will document the use of tobacco and how clay pipes and other artifacts changed from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century. The Antiquity Authority has control over those artifacts and I have to use their staff. To document with photographs and drawings roughly one hundred artifacts, I need $500.00.

I ask for that amount from your institution ($1800.00). I will acknowledge the support of the council in all my writings, specifically my dissertation and all published works. I will provide a report for your council within four months of my return to the USA. My research will be available for your use - I assume there is interest in documenting the global spread of tobacco from the Americas over the last several centuries.

Enclosed is an overview of my academic experience and a list of references (my curriculum vita). Please contact me for more information on your funding process.

Sincerely,

Uzi Baram

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